

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2003. For the following reasons, this Application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

Claims 1-7, 10-13 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keiji et al. in view of Griessbach. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keiji et al. in view of Griessbach and in further view of Katayama et al. These rejections are hereby traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. The following is a comparison of the present invention as claimed with the Keiji et al., Griessbach and Katayama et al. references.

The indication of allowability of claims 8-9 is gratefully acknowledged. The limitations of claim 8 have been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 9 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1. However, the limitations of claim 2 have not been incorporated into amended claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as currently amended, patentably defines over the references of record.

In indicating the allowability of claim 8, the Examiner stated that the prior art failed to suggest limitations where the on-vehicle apparatus requests the electronic key to output the third ID when the first ID corresponds with the fourth ID and when an operator carrying the electronic key executes an operation for starting the engine. This limitation has been added to claim 1 to more clearly define the invention.

This important feature of the present invention includes the on-vehicle apparatus requesting the electronic key to output the third ID when the first ID corresponds with the fourth ID and when an operator carrying the electronic key executes an operation for starting the engine. Of course, the third ID and the sixth ID may be a part of the second ID and a part of the



fifth ID. With this feature, in accordance with the present invention, it is possible to shorten an ID identification time necessary for starting an engine, while at the same time insuring security from vehicle burglary.

Claim 13 clearly claims the features of claim 8, including the step of "requesting the electronic key to output the third ID, which is shorter in data length than the second ID, when the first ID corresponds with the first apparatus ID". Therefore, for similar reasons as provided by the Examiner with respect to claim 8, indicating allowability of this claim, claim 13 should also be considered allowable over the art of record.

Both claims 15 and 16 clearly claim the two-way identifications for starting an engine. One of the two-way identifications employs the shortened IDs to shorten ID identification time for starting the engine. None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, show or suggest the present invention.

Keiji et al., JP 11-0366735 fails to disclose a third ID of an electronic key and a sixth ID of on-vehicle apparatus that are respectively shorter in data length than the second ID and the fifth ID, respectively. Also, Keiji et al. fails to disclose the feature of shortening an ID identification time in starting the engine.

Griessbach, U.S. Patent No. 5,844,495, relates to a key for operating both a motor vehicle and building locks. Griessbach does not disclose a shortened ID between an electronic key and on-vehicle apparatus that is in addition to a normal data-length ID. Further, Griessbach does not disclose or suggest a feature of employing a shortened ID to shorten the ID identification time in starting the engine of a motor vehicle under a specified condition that the first ID of the key corresponds with a fourth ID of the on-vehicle apparatus.



Hence, the combination of Keiji et al. and Griessbach does not teach the features of the present invention, nor the advantages gained thereby. It is believed that the Amendments made to the claims place these claims into condition for allowance and that the combination of references does not show or suggest the invention as now claimed.

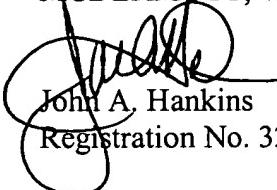
Katayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,708,308, fails to overcome any of the deficiencies noted with respect to the Keiji et al. and Griessbach references. Accordingly, the combination of Katayama et al. with Griessbach and Keiji et al. fails to show or suggest the invention as now claimed. Claim 14 further depends from and limits claim 13. Hence, claim 14 should also be considered allowable over the art of record and the rejection based on the combination of Keiji et al., Griessbach and Katayama et al. reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the Amendments and Remarks above, this Application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the Application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the Application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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